

RFI-10-38
Question/Inquiry Responses
November 24, 2009

Q1. What are the chances that Indiana's forthcoming request for cord blood services will include a grant or reimbursement to cover costs incurred by the public cord blood organization chosen?

A1. While the State has not yet appropriated funds for the Indiana Cord Blood Bank (ICBB), the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and the ICBB are actively working to secure funding source(s) to support the operation of a public cord blood bank. It is projected that within the first five (5) years of operation, a significant portion of the ICBB's operational costs will be supported through the sale of non-transplant quality cord blood units for research purposes. In addition, reimbursement for the transplant quality units will be forthcoming upon transplant through insurance, Medicaid, and other reimbursement channels. Respondents are encouraged to submit information regarding potential grants and other funding sources through which the ICBB may pursue funding opportunities.

ICBB intends to compensate the selected third party banking facility for the collection, processing and storage services provided. The specific fee schedule will be determined at the time a contract is negotiated between the selected third party banking facility and ICBB.

Q2. What would the basis and amount likely be per unit collected or listed?

A2. Per the Indiana statute mandating the establishment of the Indiana Cord Blood Bank, the ICBB will maintain collected donations at no charge or cost to the donor. The amount the third party banking facility will receive for collecting, processing, and storing each unit has not yet been determined. It is contemplated that this figure will be dependent on a number of factors including, for example, the type of tissue collected, the degree of tissue processing required for each unit collected, the geographical locations where the units are collected, etc. Respondents are encouraged to submit feedback regarding how these amounts should be determined in light of the costs a banking facility necessarily incurs with respect to the collection, processing and storage of the units. Additionally, submission of creative solutions and processes with respect to the collection of cord blood units from various participating hospitals and birthing centers across the state of Indiana is requested.

Q3. What costs would Indiana (FSSA or the Indiana Cord Blood Bank) cover directly vs. such reimbursement or not at all?

A3. ICBB intends to cover the costs of collecting, processing, and storing the units. In the event the third party banking facility is interested in and capable of expanding its responsibilities to further encompass marketing, management, public education and other aspects of running a successful public cord blood banking facility, the additional costs associated with the same will be negotiated.